



Vasa övningsskola IB

Study Guide 2026–2027

*for students in the preDP (IB Preparatory Programme) and
the IB Diploma Programme*



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DIRECTOR'S GREETING

A special welcome to all new preDP students – we are delighted to have you join our school community and begin this new chapter with us. You are about to start an exciting journey full of opportunities for growth and discovery.

To our returning IB students, welcome back! We are very pleased to continue this journey together with you and look forward to another year of learning, development, and success.

Vasa Övningsskola is an upper secondary school in the heart of Vaasa. We have about 390 students representing around 30 different nationalities. We offer both the Finnish National Programme and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. We are also part of the international UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet).

Our core values are rooted in the Finnish educational tradition, which emphasizes continuous learning and reflection as drivers of societal and cultural development. We encourage students to explore and understand different values by examining the contrast between ideals and reality.

At our school, individuals from diverse linguistic, ideological, and religious backgrounds come together to build shared values and principles for a meaningful life. We encourage students to care for one another and to develop strong collaboration skills. We value creativity, initiative, honesty, and perseverance. Our diversity is a source of strength and inspiration, and we cherish cultural heritage while examining it from a modern perspective.

Students are encouraged to reflect on future possibilities and consider how they can contribute to improving both their local community and the global society. Life at our school is characterized by participation, active engagement, and solidarity. In our teaching, we promote equality, well-being, and democracy.

Students will also deepen their understanding of how their own actions matter and of the global responsibility we share in promoting sustainable use of natural resources, combating climate change, and preserving biodiversity.

We look forward to sharing the school year with you!



Mats Borgmästars, Director

WELCOME

Welcome to the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme at Vasa Övningsskola. Our school offers a supportive and inspiring learning environment where students are encouraged to grow academically, socially, and personally. In the IB programme, you will be challenged to think critically, communicate effectively, and develop a global perspective. We aim to prepare you not only for further studies, but also for life in an increasingly interconnected world.

IB Philosophy

The International Baccalaureate (IB) aims to develop **inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people** who help create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

At Vasa Övningsskola, we embrace this philosophy by encouraging students to become active, compassionate, and lifelong learners. Our teaching is guided by the **IB Learner Profile**, which supports students in becoming:

- **Inquirers**
- **Thinkers**
- **Communicators**
- **Principled**
- **Open-minded**
- **Caring**
- **Balanced**
- **Reflective**

These qualities are at the heart of everything we do and shape both learning and behaviour in our school.

The IB Learning Experience

As an IB student, you will:

- Engage in **challenging and meaningful studies**
- Develop strong **analytical and critical thinking skills**
- Work both **independently and collaboratively**
- Learn to take **responsibility for your own learning**
- Gain an **international outlook**

The IB programme encourages you to become confident, responsible, and reflective in your learning journey.

Code of Conduct

At Vasa Övningsskola, our Code of Conduct reflects the values of the **IB Learner Profile**. We strive to create a respectful, inclusive, and positive learning environment for everyone.

Respect and Care

We aim to be **caring** and **principled**:

- We treat others with respect, empathy, and fairness
 - We take responsibility for our actions and show integrity in our work
 - We do not tolerate any form of violence, bullying, or harassment
-

Positive and Responsible Interaction

We aim to be **balanced** and **communicators**:

- We interact in a respectful and constructive way
 - We follow school routines, including lunch arrangements
 - Our school is a healthy environment free from alcohol, drugs, smoking, and snuff
-

A Shared Learning Environment

We aim to be **thinkers** and **reflective learners**:

- We contribute to a calm and focused study environment
 - We respect shared spaces by keeping them clean and quiet
 - We use technology responsibly according to school guidelines
 - We support each other's right to learn without disruption
-

Responsibility Beyond the Classroom

We aim to be **open-minded** and responsible: The Code of Conduct applies at all times, including during study visits, excursions, and when representing the school.

Our Community

Vasa Övningsskola is a **safe, harmonious, and stimulating environment** for students, teacher trainees, teachers, staff, and visitors.

Disciplinary Measures

Students are expected to act as **principled individuals**.

Failure to follow the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the school's policies.

Final Note

By joining the IB programme, you become part of a global community of learners committed to **respect, responsibility, and personal growth**.

UNESCO SCHOOL

Vasa Övningsskola is a UNESCO school. UNESCO stands for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

What does it mean to be a UNESCO school?

The purpose of the global network of UNESCO schools (UNESCO ASPnet – Associated Schools Network) is to promote interaction between cultures, peace, a sustainable future, and high-quality education. In recent years, education for global citizenship and a sustainable future, as well as climate change and environmental protection, have gained an important role in safeguarding and protecting cultural and world heritage sites.

The mission and value base of upper secondary education are built on the same fundamental values as ASPnet's strategy. According to the core curriculum for upper secondary education, the aim is for students to develop their identity, view of humanity, worldview, and philosophy of life, and to find their place in the world. In this way, the goals of upper secondary education align with UNESCO's four pillars of learning: learning to know, to do, to be, and to live together.

In the upper secondary curriculum that came into force in 2021, building a sustainable future is emphasized more strongly than before. This is reflected in the descriptions of transversal competences in the common section of the curriculum, in the subject descriptions, and in Chapter 3.6, which describes students' international competence. The way of thinking on which UNESCO is based is also further strengthened in the curriculum.

By being part of the network, schools put the UN's and UNESCO's programs and guidelines into practice:

- Schools promote the achievement of the UN's Agenda 2030 goals through their activities
- Schools participate in implementing UNESCO's strategies and programs in education, science, culture, and communication
- Schools implement the ASPnet school network strategy, which is based on UNESCO's strategy. It particularly supports the second goal of the strategy, according to which UNESCO aims to empower students to develop into creative and responsible citizens



CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: In Swedish: Skolhusgatan 31, 65100 Vasa / In Finnish: Koulukatu 31, 65100 Vaasa

E-mail: given [name.surname@abo.fi](mailto:given_name.surname@abo.fi)

✂ All staff members can also be contacted via Wilma.

Head of School

Moja Ladvelin / 050 5699029

Vice Principal

Diane-Christine Blusi

IB Office / library

Sabina Sundvall / 050 3242572

School Administration Office

Lena Engsbo / 046 9219790

Janitor

Patrik Backholm / 050 5910119

ICT Instructor

Andreas Sundstedt / 050 5642860

Restaurant Manager

Jonas Korsström 050 4362720

Jonas.korsstrom@compass-group.fi

IB DP Coordinator

Markus Norrby / 050 9186470

IB Guidance Counselor

Pia Lustig / 050 4141462

CAS-Coordinators

Margita Nylund

Kristina Skjäl

ICT support

Dan Grönberg / 050 4700421

Special Education Teacher

Anne Uppgård / Room R101

Student Support and Well-being

Each IB group has a Form Tutor who supports students throughout the school year. Your Form Tutor is there to guide and support you, so do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or need help.

1E – Henrik Lindgrén

2E – Mikael Lax

3E – Hillevi Lasén

The easiest way to contact your Form Tutor is through Wilma.

During the school year, you will have scheduled *Form Tutor Blocks*. These sessions appear in Wilma and usually take place in your home classroom (see your schedule for the room number). Form Tutor Blocks often have a common theme for all IB groups. They may also include guest lectures, group discussions, and activities that support your well-being and academic progress.

Health Services

Student health services at Vasa Övningsskola are organized in cooperation with the Health Care Centre of the City of Vaasa, ensuring that students have access to professional medical support.

School Nurse

Students can contact the school nurse:

Gunilla Gref

 +358 40 649 4808

 gunilla.gref@ovph.fi

Availability:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 8:00–16:00 and Friday: 8:00–14:00

There is no appointment needed between 8:00–9:00 on these days.

Doctor and Psychologist

Appointments with the school doctor or psychologist are arranged through the school nurse.

Dental Care

Students who are residents of the City of Vaasa are invited to a dental check-up during their second year (DP1). In case of emergency, students from other municipalities may also contact the dental services at the Vaasa Health Care Centre.

School Counsellor

Students can turn to the school counsellor for support with well-being, personal matters, and life situations in general. The school counsellor can also assist in arranging contact with the school psychologist when needed. Students may contact the school counsellor via Wilma or by phone.

Jimmy Sandbacka

 +358 40 660 4338

 Available on-site: Monday, Thursday

Katja Andreasson

 +358 40 828 2707

 Available on-site: Friday

Special Education Support

All first-year students participate in a reading and writing screening during the introductory course at the beginning of the school year. Special education support is available to assist students in their studies when needed. If you have a certificate of dyslexia from your previous school, please submit it to Anne Uppgård at the start of the school year. If you do not have a certificate but believe you may need assessment or support, you are encouraged to contact Anne.

School Coach

Students can turn to the school coach for support with well-being and everyday challenges. The school coach can also help guide students to other professionals when needed.

Camilla Rogaszewska

 +358 50 344 3810

 Located: Academill G502 and R201

Student Council

All students at Vasa Övningsskola are members of the Student Council. At the beginning of each school year, students elect representatives to the Student Council Board (SKS). The board works to:

- Represent students' interests and rights
 - Organize activities and events and to contribute to a positive school community
-

Student Tutors

Student tutors are experienced students who support new students throughout the school year. You will meet the tutors during your introductory course, and they will continue to be available for guidance and support. Students are encouraged to turn to their tutors with any questions or concerns.

Library

The school library is located on the third floor of the old building (the R-building) and is an important resource for students, teachers, and staff. Students may borrow all fiction books, while reference materials are for use within the library only. If you have any questions regarding library services, please contact the IB Secretary, Sabina Sundvall.

To borrow books:

- Use your City of Vaasa library card
- The loan period is one period (term)
- For extended loans, please consult the librarian

Returns:

- Place all returned books on the trolley marked *"Returned books"*
- Do not return books directly to the shelves
- For class texts, placing the book on the trolley is sufficient

Students are expected to:

- Return newspapers and magazines after use
 - Maintain a quiet study environment
 - Avoid using mobile phones in the library
 - No food or drinks are permitted in the library.
-

Quiet Study Space

A reading room is available on the fourth floor above the library. Students may use this space during free periods for studying or quiet reflection.

Digital Resources

With your Åbo Akademi University (ÅA) username, you also have access to the university's online library resources.

THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2026–2027

Period	Test week
Period 1: 13.8-2.10	24.9-2.10
Period 2: 5.10-30.11	20.11-30.11
Period 3: 1.12-8.2	29.1-8.2
Period 4: 9.2-8.4	31.3-8.4
Period 5: 9.4-3.6	26.5-3.6



VASA
ÖVNINGSSKOLA

SKOLANS ARBETSDAGAR 2026-2027
SCHOOLDAYS 2026-2027

Vecka Week	2026	Må Mon	Ti Tue	Ons Wed	To Thu	Fre Fri	Lö Sat
32	3.8. - 7.8.						
33	10.8. - 14.8.				1	2	
34	17.8. - 21.8.	3	4	5	6	7	
35	24.8. - 28.8.	8	9	10	11	12	
36	31.8. - 4.9.	13	14	15	16	17	
37	7.9. - 11.9.	18	19	20	21	22	
38	14.9. - 18.9.	23	24	25	26	27	
39	21.9. - 25.9.	28	29	30	31	32	
40	28.9. - 2.10.	33	34	35	36	37	
41	5.10. - 9.10.	38	39	40	41	42	
42	12.10. - 16.10.	Höstlov - Autumn holiday					
43	19.10. - 23.10.	43	44	45	46	47	
44	26.10. - 30.10.	48	49	50	51	52	
45	2.11. - 6.11.	53	54	55	56	57	
46	9.11. - 13.11.	58	59	60	61	62	
47	16.11. - 20.11.	63	64	65	66	67	
48	23.11. - 27.11.	68	69	70	71	72	
49	30.11. - 4.12.	73	74	75	76	77	
50	7.12. - 12.12.	78	79	80	81	82	83
51	14.12. - 18.12.	84	85	86	87	88	
52	21.12. - 25.12.	Jullov - Christmas holiday					
53	28.12. - 1.1.					**	
Vecka Week	2027	Må Mon	Ti Tue	Ons Wed	To Thu	Fre Fri	Lö Sat
1	4.1. - 8.1.			***	89	90	
2	11.1. - 15.1.	91	92	93	94	95	
3	18.1. - 22.1.	96	97	98	99	100	
4	25.1. - 29.1.	101	102	103	104	105	
5	1.2. - 5.2.	106	107	108	109	110	
6	8.2. - 12.2.	111	112	113	114	115	
7	15.2. - 19.2.	116	117	118	119	120	
8	22.2. - 26.2.	121	122	123	124	125	
9	1.3. - 5.3.	Sportlov - Winter holiday					
10	8.3. - 12.3.	126	127	128	129	130	
11	15.3. - 19.3.	131	132	133	134	135	
12	22.3. - 26.3.	136	137	138	139	Påsk	
13	29.3. - 2.4.	Easter	140	141	142	143	
14	5.4. - 9.4.	144	145	146	147	148	
15	12.4. - 16.4.	149	150	151	152	153	
16	19.4. - 23.4.	154	155	156	157	158	
17	26.4. - 30.4.	159	160	161	162	163	****
18	3.5. - 7.5.	164	165	166	*****	167	
19	10.5. - 15.5.	168	169	170	171	172	
20	17.5. - 22.5.	173	174	175	176	177	178
21	24.5. - 28.5.	179	180	181	182	183	
22	31.5. - 5.6.	184	185	186	187	188	189

Läsårets skolarbete börjar torsdag 13.8.2026 och avslutas lördag 5.6.2027

The academic year begins on Thursday 13.8.2026 and finishes on Saturday 5.6.2027

* Självständighetsdagen - Independence Day (Söndag - Sunday 6.12)

** Nyårsdagen - New Year's Day (Fredag - Friday 1.1)

189 dgr

*** Trettondagen - Epiphany (Onsdag - Wednesday 6.1)

**** Första maj - Labour Day (Lördag - Saturday 1.5)

***** Kristihimmelfärdsdagen - Ascension Day (Torsdag - Thursday 6.5)

LESSONS AND SCHEDULE

Lessons are 75 minutes long and are organised into blocks. A course is typically taught in three blocks per week during a study period. Your personal timetable, including classroom numbers and teachers, is available in Wilma.

Daily Schedule

Block 1 08:10–09:25

Block 2 09:40–10:55

Block 3 11:10–13:00 (*includes lunch*)

Block 4 13:15–14:30

Block 5 14:45–16:00

Lunch according to Block 3:

- **Lesson time: 11:10 AM - 1:00 PM**
Lunch: 11:45 AM - 12:20 PM
- **Lesson time: 11:10 AM - 12:25 PM**
Lunch: 12:25 PM - 1:00 PM

THE PRE-DP (IB PREPARATORY PROGRAMME)

During Year 1, most courses follow the Finnish National Curriculum, while all teaching is conducted in English. Each course is worth 2 credits. Most courses are compulsory, but students can also choose some optional courses, particularly in the sciences. When selecting options, students are encouraged to consider their interests and future study plans. Students planning to study Chemistry and/or Physics in the Diploma Programme are recommended to take two courses in these subjects during Year 1. French and German are studied together with students in the national programme and follow the national curriculum. Both languages are also offered as IB subjects at Vasa Övningsskola.

Course Selection

A minimum of 10 students is required for a course to run. If fewer students enrol, students may need to choose an alternative.

Teachers will provide information about course materials at the start of each course. For advice and support, students are encouraged to contact your Guidance Counselor.

Finnish Matriculation Examination

Some IB students may choose to take one or more exams in the Finnish matriculation examination. The IB Diploma is widely recognized by Finnish universities and other higher education institutions. Therefore, taking matriculation exams is usually only recommended if you wish to complete additional subjects. These are most commonly: The second national language (Finnish or Swedish), An additional language, such as German or French. If you are interested in taking matriculation exams, please contact your Guidance Counselor well in advance, as you must register for the exams.

Subject	Number of courses	Credits
Mother tongue Swedish/Finnish	3	6
English	4	8
2 nd National language (Swe/Fi)	5	10
Mathematics	4	9
Economics	1	2
History	2	4
Psychology	1	2
Biology	2	4
Physics	1 + 1 optional	2 + 2
Chemistry	1 + 1 optional	2 + 2
Philosophy	1	2
Study Strong	1	2
Physical Education	1	2
Arts or Music	1	2
French/German	4 (optional)	8
Intro to studies & Study skills	1	2
Competence Week	1	2

[Leaving an ongoing course](#)

In exceptional cases, you can be allowed to leave an ongoing course after discussions with the Guidance Counselor and the subject teacher. Contact your Guidance Counselor.

[Course evaluation](#)

Students' work, learning and development are assessed in various ways. The aim of assessment is to guide and encourage students in their studies and to develop their ability to self-assess. Students have the right to be informed of the basis for assessment. The students shall be given the possibility to self-assess during their studies. (Free translation from Gymnasielagen/Lukiolaki 714/2018, chapt 6, 37§) The assessment is to be varied and based on:

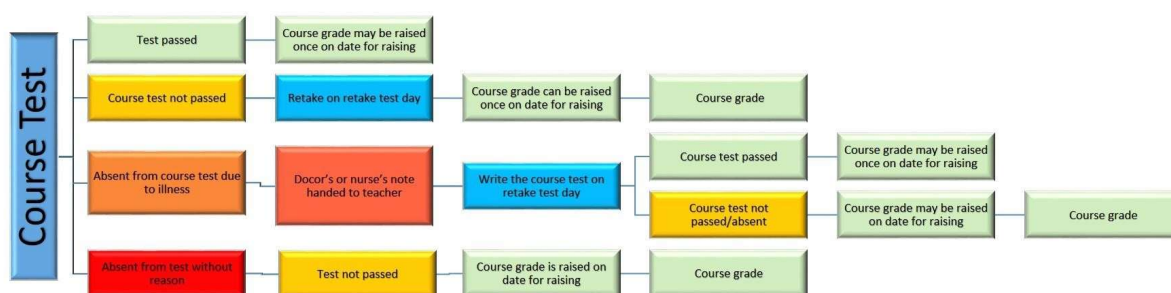
- how the student has achieved the goals of the course
- possible written and/or oral tests
- the student's self-assessment can be taken into account (e.g. through evaluation discussions)
- completed assignments
- continuous observation of each student's achievements, activity, interest and development

Marks are given on a scale of 4 - 10. Some course units are marked with Pass/Fail. At the end of each course there is normally a final course exam. In order to earn the course unit all parts of a course have to be completed according to the instructions given by the teacher.

A **D** in your report card means that you have participated in the course but that some course work is still missing. The missing work must be completed within the next module. A **K** in your report card means that you have interrupted the course.

NOTE! An average of the Pre-DP grades in each subject will be shown on your final *Certificate of studies* when you leave the school.

Pre-DP test policy



Each period ends with a test week when the **course tests** for the subjects you have had in the period are written (note that not all courses have a test). **You always participate in this test.** No registration is needed. The test days are visible in your schedule.

After each period you also have a **retake test day**. A retake test day is used if you have been ill during the test week or if you have had a course contract. If you are **absent without reason**, you will be marked with a grade D and need to rewrite the test on a date for raising a grade. In this case you have forfeited your right to raise a passed grade.

After period 1, 3 and 5 you have a possibility to **raise a course grade and complete courses graded with a D**. A passed grade can be raised once. A grade 4 (not passed) can be raised twice.

Note that you must register in Wilma for these test days.

	Retake	Raising a grade
Period 1	20.10 kl. 14.45-17.45	23.10 kl. 14.45-17.45 + Retake
Period 2	11.12 kl. 14.45-17.45	24.2 kl. 14.45-17.45
Period 3	18.2 kl. 14.45-17.45	24.2 kl. 14.45-17.45 + Retake
Period 4	29.4 kl. 14.45-17.45	11.6 kl. 14.00-17.00
Period 5	8.6 kl. 14.00-17.00	11.6 kl. 14.00-17.00 + Retake

[The general requirement for continuing from preparatory year 1 to DP1](#)

Diploma Programme (DP) is a two-year programme that begins in your second year. One of the key differences between the IB system and the Finnish national system is the focus on **continuity**. Your progress is assessed over time, and to graduate with the IB Diploma, you must meet the requirements outlined in the DP information booklet.

The main goal of Year 1 is to **prepare you for the two-year IB Diploma Programme**. To ensure that all students are ready to succeed in the Diploma Programme, we use a system of **checkpoints** during the year. These help us make sure that each student reaches the required academic level and is well prepared to continue.

To continue to the IB Diploma Programme after the first four periods, you must meet the following requirements:

- Achieve a minimum average grade of 7.5 across all courses
- Receive no grade D in any subject
- Achieve a minimum average of 8 in the subjects you plan to study at Higher Level (HL)
- Achieve an average of 9 if you wish to take Mathematics AA at Higher Level (MAA HL)

It is important that you and your guardian regularly monitor your grades in Wilma throughout the school year. Each **Test Week** is an important part of your studies and provides valuable information about your academic progress. For this reason, every Test Week should be taken seriously and approached with commitment and effort. After **Test Week 4**, the school conducts a thorough review of each student's overall academic performance to determine whether the requirements for continuing to **DP1** are being met. This review is based on the student's grades and overall progress throughout the year.

Students who are at risk of not meeting the programme requirements will be informed in good time and given the opportunity to improve their performance. If there are concerns about a student's academic progress, a **pedagogical meeting** will be arranged. During this meeting, the student and school staff will discuss the situation, identify possible challenges, and consider appropriate support measures. If necessary, alternative educational pathways or study options may also be explored. Each case is reviewed individually. Possible measures may include:

- Completing additional assignments to improve grades
- Taking retake tests
- Considering an alternative study path

When making decisions, the school also takes into account factors such as attendance, participation in lessons, and overall well-being.

Attendance/absence

When admitted to our school you are to participate in the teaching and attend the classes arranged by the school. The same rules that apply in working life are also used in school context: you are required to be **present** and **punctual**.

In the case of absence ***your guardian must inform about this in Wilma***. There is a special feature in Wilma for this, but it is also appreciated if your guardian sends a Wilma message to the Form Tutor explaining the absence. Absence hours are registered in the Wilma database.

Valid excuses for absence are illness or having to represent the school. You can get permission to be absent for other reasons than the above mentioned. This, however, requires that you ***hand in a written application before*** the absence:

- 1 lesson: Permission from the subject teacher
- 1 – 3 days absence: Permission from your Form Tutor
- Longer absence: Permission given by Head of School

If there are more than five absences in a course or any unexplained absence, there will be no grade (K). In case of absence more than a week due to illness, a medical certificate is required. The certificate should be shown to subject teachers when requested. A K in a course leads to a pedagogical discussion with the form tutor, IB coordinator / guidance counselor and student. During this discussion, the student gets an official warning. In case of continued absence, an expert group meeting is arranged. The theme of the meeting is an alternative study place

You are required to make up for any work you miss during your absence. Teachers may also ask you to complete extra assignments to compensate for missed lessons.

NOTE: Driving lessons must **not** be scheduled during normal school hours. The only exceptions are practice lessons on the skid-pan (*halkbana, liukurata*) and driver's tests (both theoretical and practical).

Absence Due to Travel During Exam Weeks

During exam weeks, it is of utmost importance that students participate in all scheduled exams. Being away during this period (the so-called exam week) significantly disrupts the course of studies, as it affects the ability to complete the study module as planned. We therefore strongly advise against booking trips during exam weeks.

If a student misses an exam, they are usually given the opportunity to retake it at a later date (which takes place after the exam week has ended). However, only one exam can be taken at this retake session. This means that if the student has missed several exams (often 5–6 during an exam week), it is not practically possible to make up all missed exams within the framework of the retake period.

The consequence may be that the study module cannot be completed within the planned timeframe, which may in turn extend the duration of upper secondary school studies and delay the student's matriculation. It is therefore very important to plan participation in education in such a way that absence during exam weeks is avoided.

The school communicates the dates of the academic year's exam weeks well in advance.

Academic honesty

We take academic honesty seriously in our school. In teaching, learning and assessment, academic honesty serves to promote personal integrity and engenders respect for others and the integrity of their work. Upholding academic honesty also helps to ensure that all students have equal opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills they acquire during their studies.

Plagiarism detection software programs are used by the teachers.

The following list identifies the various forms of academic misconduct considered in the Academic Policy:

- Too much assistance and collusion
- Lack of referencing – plagiarism
- Duplicating your own work to meet the requirements of more than one assessment component without specific agreement with teachers
- Fabricating data for an assignment
- Taking unauthorized material into an examination room
- Disrupting an examination by an act of misconduct (e.g. distracting another student, creating a disturbance)
- Exchanging, supporting or attempting to support the passing on of information that is or could be related to an examination
- Failing to comply with the instructions of the invigilator or other member of the school's staff responsible for the conduct of an examination
- Impersonating another candidate
- Stealing examination papers

Disclosing or discussing the content of a final examination paper with a person outside the immediate school community within 24 hours after the examination

The protocol in the case of misconduct

1. Academic misconduct in a test and major assignments or projects: the course will not be assessed.
2. Academic misconduct in minor assignments: the assignment will not be assessed.
3. The subject teacher decides if an assignment is major/minor.
4. Subject teacher talks to student. The subject teacher may involve Form Tutor, IB coordinator, Head of School
5. If repeated offence-> discussion with Form tutor, IB coordinator, Head of School
6. The guardian is contacted.
7. A written warning may be given by Head of School. If a written warning is given your possibilities to continue your studies will be discussed.

Foreign students

Students without a permanent home municipality in Finland are charged a fee of 14500 € per school year. This fee covers for all material, such as computer, calculator and books. It also covers for the examination fees the last year of studies.

Right to Free Education

Education is free of charge until the end of the calendar year in which the student turns 20 (Compulsory Education Act).

THE IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME (DP)

Submission Deadlines

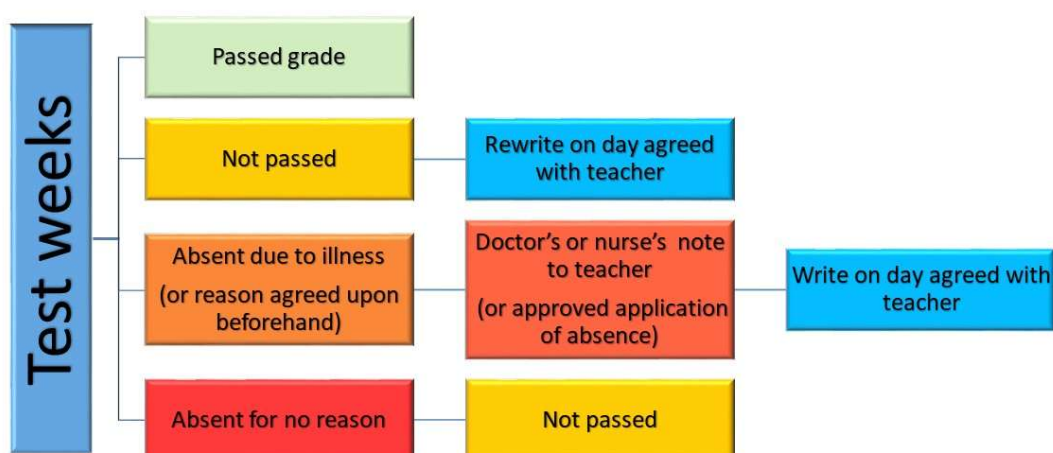
Meeting deadlines is an important part of your studies in the IB Diploma Programme. All official internal deadlines (for the IA, Extended Essay (EE), TOK Essay, and other externally assessed or moderated work) must be followed. You must also meet all deadlines within your subjects, including assignments, tests, and presentations. All deadlines can be found in ManageBac.

If You Cannot Meet a Deadline

You must contact your teacher before the deadline if you are unable to submit your work on time. If you do not inform the teacher in advance, the teacher may choose not to accept your work or leave it unassessed. These rules apply to all types of work, including; Class assignments (both written and oral), Internal assessment work (IA, EE, etc.)

Tests

DP Test policy



Official test weeks for the IB section are scheduled by the IB Coordinator and take place in **November** and during the **spring term**. The tests at the end of the spring term are called **Mock Exams**. These are designed to closely resemble the **final IB examinations**. The official **IB Final Exams** are held in **May of DP2**, and the **final results** are released in **July**.

Absence from Tests

- If you are absent from a test **without a valid reason**, the test will be recorded as **not passed**.
- If you are absent due to **illness**, you must provide verification.
- In such cases, you may **retake the test** at a time agreed upon with your teacher.

EVALUATION

Each subject is assessed, but the evaluation varies somewhat from subject to subject and is based on the IB requirements in the subject. Your teachers will inform you in detail regarding assessment in their subjects.

In the IB, a scale of 1 – 7 is used in assessment. The correspondence between the IB and the national grades (used in the preparatory year 1) is:

<u>IB grade</u>	<u>National grade</u>
7 Excellent	10
6 Very good	9
5 Good	8
4 Satisfactory	7
3 Mediocre	6
2 Poor	5
1 Very poor	4 (not passed)

The grading of the Extended Essay and the final grade for Theory of Knowledge is

A = Excellent

B = Good

C = Satisfactory

D = Mediocre

E = Elementary

You will be assessed with grades for your IB DP studies after all modules. These grades are internal school grades and give you feedback on how your studies are progressing. You can see your internal school grades in Wilma.

When you apply to further education in DP2 you will have to include **predicted grades** into your application. A predicted grade is given by the subject teacher. The teacher takes all academic achievements into consideration, but can also include motivation, work rate, attitude to learning and self-management in order to predict what the final grade in the subject will be.

The universities' final decisions on applications are always made based on the **final results** issued in July by the IB.

MINIMUMS FOR CONTINUING

The key difference between the IB system and the Finnish national system is the notion of continuity. The IB Diploma Programme is set up so that you have a continuous course of study, even though your schedule changes with each module. For this reason, it is important to have 'checkpoints' to make sure that each student has reached a minimum standard to continue in the program.

The general requirement for continuing from DP1 to DP2 are

- a minimum total of 24 points (in 6 subjects)
- supervisors' approval of EE topic
- the CAS diary, with a minimum of 70 hours, must be handed in to CAS Coordinator
- all required assignments have been completed

The grades given in periods 1 – 4 are taken into account when checking the requirement for continuation.

Students in danger of not meeting these requirements will be informed so that they can try to raise their grades before the end of the spring term. The last possible date to raise the grades is 17 May.

Cases will be dealt with on an individual basis, but possible consequences of not meeting the minimum requirements are (the decision will also take into consideration attendance, participation in lessons, health, etc.):

- Additional assignments to raise grades
- Retake tests
- Retake DP1

Diploma Requirements

The total number of points in the Final Exams is sum of all grades (6 subjects, maximum grade 7, giving 42 points). Any seventh subject is extra and counted separately. TOK and EE can together give a maximum of 3 points, so the ***total maximum number of possible points is 45***. To receive an IB Diploma, the following minimum requirements must be met:

<u>All students:</u>
All assessment components for each subject and TOK, CAS, EE completed
No malpractice
Numeric grades in all six subjects, grades A – D for TOK and EE
A grade of 2 or higher in all subjects, no grade 1s.
No more than two grade 2s (HL or SL)
No more than three grade 3 or below (HL or SL)
At least 24 points gained in total
At least 12 points earned in HL subjects (if four HL subjects then the 3 highest count)
At least 9 points earned in SL subjects (if two SL: 5)

ATTENDANCE/ABSENCE

Once you have chosen to take a subject you are required to attend the classes. The same rules that apply in working life are also used in school context: you are required to be **present** and **punctual**.

If there are more than five absences in a module or an unexplained absence, there will be no grade (K). In case of illness, a medical certificate is required. This certificate should be shown to the subject teachers when requested. A K leads to a pedagogical discussion with the form tutor, IB coordinator/Study counselor, and student. During this discussion, the student gets an official warning. A plan is established for actions and follow-up. In case of continued absence, an expert group meeting is arranged. The theme of the meeting is an alternative place of study.

In the case of absence ***your guardian must inform about this in Wilma***. There is a special feature in Wilma for this, but it is also appreciated if your guardian sends a Wilma message to the Form Tutor explaining the absence. Absence hours are registered in the Wilma database.

Valid excuses for absence are illness or having to represent the school. You can get permission to be absent for other reasons than the above mentioned. This, however, requires that you ***hand in a written application before*** the absence:

- 1 lesson: Permission from the subject teacher
- 1 - 3 days absence: Permission from your Form Tutor
Deadline: 1 week before absence
- Longer absence: Permission from the Head of School
Deadline: Two weeks before absence

You are required to make up any work you miss during your absence. Teachers may also ask you to complete extra assignments to compensate for missed lessons.

NOTE: Driving lessons must **not** be scheduled during normal school hours. The only exceptions are practice lessons on the skid-pan (*halkbana*, *liukurata*) and driver's tests (both theoretical and practical).

[Leaving an ongoing subject](#)

In exceptional cases, you can be allowed to change subjects after discussions with the Guidance Counselor and the subject teacher. You must also complete the form 'Request to change courses', including a clear motivation for dropping the course. You also need to do this if you change level in a subject. Contact your Guidance Counselor.

[DIPLOMA](#)

Your school leaving certificate is issued by the IB. After you receive the results from the Final Exams (in July), you get your IB Diploma (at the Diploma Ceremony, held at the end of August or the beginning of September), showing the grades you have obtained in the Final Exams.

Vasa övningsskola will not give final grades for your Diploma Programme years.